

# Focus on Fifth

## Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 23, 2013

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

### Important Dates

This Week	MAP Testing
September 25-27	Dental Clinic

Dear Families,

### INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Wednesday, October 9, 2013 is International Walk to School Day. Students throughout the United States will be walking to school. Here at Holmes we do walking school buses. Students teachers and parents come together creating both large and small walking school buses. Parents and /or Teachers position themselves at the front and rear of the walking buses, while all walking student participants gather in the middle of the walking buses. Students can also lead the walking buses.

Upon entering the school, student walkers also receive an IWALK hand stamp, indicating their participation in the walk to school event. So, parents and teachers mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 9, 2013.

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### SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th grade artists learned about the three types of balance--symmetrical, asymmetrical and radial balance. We focused on radial balance. Radial balance has a center axis and the design radiates from the center and repeats around the axis. We found radial balance in nature in flowers and starfish and also found it in human made objects like bike wheels, pinwheels and clocks. Our artwork uses our name, radially balanced and repeated eight times to create a colorful, unique, abstract, radial design.

**Music** - Last week, we learned a little bit about the music of Ancient Egypt and listened to a harp piece inspired by the music of that time. We also continued with our drum unit, adding singing to our pieces. They will be assessed on their playing this week. **We will start recorders the week of October 7th.** Students may start bringing their recorders into the classroom at any time and I will store them here. All parents with email addresses listed with the school should have received an email from me about [setting up a free Three Ring account](#) so that I can share recordings of your children's performances. This will be my form of a newsletter for the year. If your email is not listed or you did not receive an email, please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org) if you are interested in receiving this communication.

**Chorus** - Our first performance will be Saturday, November 23rd at the Oak Park Arms. The notice will be sent home at the beginning of the week.

**Spanish** - It was great meeting parents last week at Curriculum Night! The fifth graders are wrapping up their first class story. It will be posted to the blog soon at <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

**Library** - Calling all Reading Olympians! This year's Reading Olympics (RO) program will begin this week with an introduction to the books on the fall list (please see the media center page and click on Reading Olympics for a fall and spring list, and to view the video I made for a quick introduction to the books). What is RO, you ask? It is an opportunity for every fifth grader in the district to show his or her love for reading. Each fall and spring, students are welcome to form teams of three to read from a list of nine books. Each student is asked to read only three (but may read all nine) of the books and will partake in a competition at Holmes on Wednesday, December 4, answering questions about the books. The winning team from Holmes will go to the district competition to flex their brain muscles in front of the other 8 elementary schools in the district, plus Roosevelt Middle, St. Luke, and St. Giles. Permission slips will go home this week; return the slip to sign up for this extracurricular (NOT mandatory!) activity. Check the library page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>) for details or email me with questions [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) . Happy reading!

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

### **Resource**

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

### **Reading/Literature**

This week we will be focusing on the non-fiction skill of reading for information. Specifically, we will work on finding the answer to a question quickly and efficiently. Some example questions would be, "How can we make our school greener?", "What type of adaptations do animals use to survive?", "Is our global population growing too large?". This will involve brainstorming search words, identifying resources, scanning text features (charts, graphs, photographs, captions and headings), and then synthesizing information into a written response.

We will also discuss the types of things that we read, other than text. This includes illustrations, photographs, data, charts and even emotions.

### **Writing**

This week, we will be working on Sentence Fluency. We will use Jane Yolen's 'Owl Moon' as an example of excellent sentence fluency. Writing assignments will vary by homeroom. Be sure to check your child's homeroom teacher's page for due dates.

### **Math**

This week, we continue our focus on multiplication. We have been working on using an area model for multiplication and have been discussing the relationship between the area model and the standard algorithm. In addition to expanding to multiplication of three digit numbers, we will also work on multiplication word problems. We are not at the middle of our unit, and on Friday, we will have a mid-unit assessment. The assessment will cover expressions, exponents and multiplication. Common Core Standards assessed are: *5.OA.1 Use parentheses, brackets, or braces in numerical expressions, and evaluate expressions with these symbols, 5.OA.2. Write simple expressions that record calculations with numbers, and interpret numerical expressions without evaluating them, 5.NBT.1. Recognize that in a multi-digit number, a digit in one place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right and 1/10 of what it represents in the place to its left, and 5.NBT.5. Fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.*

**Every 5th grade student needs a calculator.** We recommend the TI-15 Explorer calculator as it has fraction functions that we will use later in the year. TI-15 calculators are available from the school at a cost of \$16, payable in cash, or check made out to District 97. You may also order calculators

online from the District 97 Web Store.

### **Science**

This week, we will go back to the blacktop on Monday with our gnomon to see if our shadows have changed in length in one week when measured at the same time. Connecting to the Next Generation Science Standards, students will develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact. We will analyze the impact humans have on the Earth and the causes global warming. While reading informational text in science, students are learning to use Cornell notes, which encourage close reading of text.

### **Social Studies**

This week, we will work to define a Commons. Students will be looking at their home and school environment to decide how we share resources. They will examine the issue of caring for our resources and form opinions about personal responsibility.

### **Spelling/ Word Study**

Last week, we learned our Spelling routine. This week we will put it into independent practice and will work with a common list of words. Students may practice the activities listed on our 5th Grade Wiki at home. Next week, students will receive individualized words based on a Spelling Diagnostic.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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